Extra departmental employees

142. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Extra Departmental Employees (EDES) are working in Postal Department.

(b) whether Government considering to give regular employment to them; and

(c) the status of implementation of Talwar Committee report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. 2,98,571 Gramin Dak Sevaks earlier called Extra Departmental Agents (EDAs) are working in the Postal Department as on 31.3.2004.

(b) No, Sir. The Gramin Dak Sevaks are part time employees. Although they are holder of civil posts but are outside the regular civil service.

(c) Government of India constituted, on the analogy of Vth Central Pay Commission for regular Government employees, a one man committee known as Justice Talwar Committee (JTC) to examine the system of extra departmental agency in the Department of Posts, their conditions of employment, wage structure etc.

The recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee were considered by the Department. The staff unions were also consulted. Thereafter, the recommendations were carefully considered by the Group of ministers (GOM), and a package of benefits was issued by the Government, in full and final settlement of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, vide order dated 17.12.98 extending the following benefits to the Gramin Dak Sevaks:

(i) Raising the basic monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25 for the period 01.01.96 to 28.02,.98.

(ii) Thereafter with effect from 01.03.98 placing them in Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA).

(iii) Increasing the maximum amount of ex-gratia Gratuity from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 18,000/-

(iv) Increasing the office Maintenance Allowance from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

(v) Paid leave of 10 days for every half-year without provision of carry forward.

(vi) Provision of Severance Amount of Rs. 30,000/- in case of retirement or death, if the period of continuous employment of GDS employees is minimum 20 years and Rs.20,000/- if a GDS has completed 15-20 years of continuous employment. On absorpiton to regular departmental post, the Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- is payable after 15 years of continuous employment.

Quality and satisfactory services to customers by mobile companies

†143. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that private telecom companies are luring consumers in small and medium cities through various schemes but are totally unable to provide them services;

(b) if so, the steps are being taken by Government to ensure quality and satisfactory service to the consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) To provide satisfactory service to the consumers by the telecom service providers, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has prescribed revised Quality of Service (QoS) benchmarks vide its Regulation issued on 8th July 2005. In many places, the Quality of Service has been reported to be below the Qualtiy of Service (QoS) benchmarks prescribed by TRAI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.